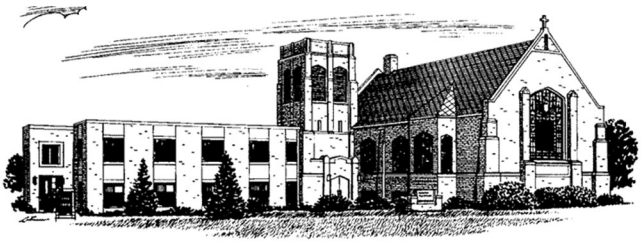
SARON MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085



Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook:www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Saron's Mission: ***Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!***

Joe Ulrey, Saron Congregational Council President
Cell: 313-718-2563
Email: josephulrey@yahoo.com

Amanda Bradley, Admin Assistant
Cell: 419-306-5780
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
bradley717@gmail.com

Marcus Roll, Music Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com

Irma Gorman, Organist
Email: pianoladyijg@yahoo.com

Ken Boyd, Bookkeeper
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org

Sara Porter, Childcare Specialist
Email: portersara20@gmail.com

Typical Sunday at Saron:

Fall, Winter and Spring (**began Sept 8**):
8:30am Worship On-Location
9:40am Learning Hour for Ages 3-Adult
11am Worship with Zoom Option
Nursery Available

Summer (begins May 25, 2025):
10am Worship
On-Location and via Zoom
Nursery Available
No Learning Hour

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18

Advent Soup Suppers at 6:15pm
Worships at 7pm
On-location & via Zoom

Church Decorating

Wednesday, December 11 after the 7pm Advent Worship.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 26, 2025**! We will join together to hear council and committee reports, approve the 2025 spending plan, elect new council members, and more! Watch for details in the January Newsletter and future emails.

General Information

OFFICE HOURS

Amanda Bradley (Admin Assistant):
Mondays & Thursdays 9am-1pm
Helping Hands Office Volunteers:
Wednesdays 9:00am-11am (approx)
Ken Boyd (Bookkeeper):
Thursday Mornings and by Appointment

If you or your loved one is need of a visit or pastoral care, please contact Ed Staude. He will get you in touch with the correct person. Ed's contact info is 636/288-1016 or staude.edmund@gmail.com.

Other questions or concerns during the pastoral transition can be addressed to the appropriate council member or liaison:
President - Joe Ulrey
Vice President - Fran Bolson
Secretary - Claudia Staude
Treasurer - Ed Brunner
Worship - Erik Bergh (or Krin Jurgensen, Worship Chair)
Learning - Fran Bolson or Claudia Staude
Outreach - Sally Schmuhl or Jim Manore
Facilities - Steve Cook or Ed Brunner
Youth - Chuck Knebl
Support - Jim Manore (or Don Hafer, Support Chair)
Hospitality - Merrily Smith

Caring and Sharing

IN OUR PRAYERS

Tom Taylor is at Caretel in St. Joseph;
John Olson is at Woodland Terrace in Bridgman.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members!

12/2 Victor Coar
12/2 Jason Crockett
12/4 Phil Standen
12/5 Alexander Breyen
12/6 Rachael Johnson
12/8 Lee Carter
12/9 Piper Gray-Roll
12/9 Brooke Hoffman
12/9 Janet Taylor
12/11 Robert Deaton
12/12 Cynthia Brown
12/12 Edward Brunner
12/13 Eric Standen
12/13 Deb Standen
12/14 Finnegan Gray-Roll
12/16 Grace Hicks
12/16 Charles Pater
12/16 Caden Zwar
12/18 Heather Pudell
12/20 Janet Boyd
12/21 K.T. Alexander
12/27 Oliver Fortenbacher
12/29 Paxton Zwar
12/31 Kristen Harper

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members!

12/18 Dennis & Colleen Lundgren
12/18 Heather & Steve Pudell
12/26 Brian & Marybeth Culverhouse
12/29 Edmund & Claudia Staude
12/30 Judy & Mark Wedde

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round!"

If there are any omissions from the birthday or anniversary list, or if a date is incorrect, please let us know so we can get it correct in the future!

FORTIFY & fly

The painting in the sanctuary and narthex is complete! Thank you to everyone that helped move us out and back in those spaces. We had a few weeks that weren't super fun but wow, it looks so fresh and bright!
Progress is also being made in several other areas. We have a design for some signage on the alley side of the building that will draw more attention to our main doors, making them look more welcoming, especially to those unfamiliar with our orientation. We are also in the middle of volunteers painting the small classroom on the other side of the men's bathroom in the Education Wing that has been used as a storage area for a long time. Once complete, it will be set up as the new Teen Lounge with a ping pong table, inspirational mural and comfy furniture. This is the first of many projects updating our Education Wing, spanning over the next several years (unrelated to Fortify & Fly). You are always encouraged to head down and check out the progress!

Worship

NEW: ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES

Our new sound system in the sanctuary came with headphones to assist those having difficulty hearing the worship service. If you are interested, ask Marcus if you can try one out.

SENSORY BAGS

As part of extending an unconditional welcome to all, we have Sensory Bags available for use. These bags contain a variety of fidgets that can help someone feel more able to sit quietly and/or focus. We also have noise canceling headphones for those who are sound sensitive. These brightly colored bags can be found in the narthex.

PRAYER GROUP

You are invited to offer your prayer petitions (concerns or thanksgivings) via our attendance cards each Sunday. Requests can also be made online via a link in our Thursday email. You may include as much, or little, detail as you wish. Requests are then given to the Monday prayer group. **You are invited to be part of this Monday group at noon.** We follow a simple format of morning prayer and insert the petitions and prayers for Saron's ministry and the world. You don't even have to pray aloud, if you would prefer to pray quietly. Most weeks we are done in 30 minutes.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sponsor a week by using the link in the weekly email or by contacting the church office. Please note any occasion/thanksgiving to be recognized in the bulletin. **Flowers will be $40 per vase**, beginning 1/1/25. Checks are payable to Saron with "Flowers" as the memo. Take them home to enjoy then please **return the vase.**

Nursery service is available during worship. In order to utilize the space most effectively, this option is primarily directed towards our youngest members and guests. For preschoolers that need more physical and/or emotional space, activities are available in the narthex, including clipboards with coloring pages and children's bulletins. **It's vital to embrace family units in all stages and as such, we gladly welcome wiggles and giggles in worship!**

The goal of the nursery is to provide a safe environment to facilitate a meaningful worship experience for families. We recognize that may not look the same for all and encourage sharing concerns and suggestions with Marilyn Lucy (269/759-3464). We can also use more volunteers!

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

December 1: First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 29: First Sunday of Christmas
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Scott will be having a Christmas Party with the teens at 10am on December 15 after they rehearse the chimes for the Youth Christmas Service.

This group typically meets once per month after the late service for food, fun and fellowship. Friends are always welcome! **Contact Scott at scottgaspari@outlook.com with any questions or to be added to the email list.**

Learning

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

We have many educational options to fit your needs and schedule. Always feel welcome to join us, at any time and for as many sessions as works for you.

SUNDAY LEARNING HOUR

We have opportunities for many ages and stages!

The Sunday Learning Hour (9:40am-10:30am) offers the following options:

- Preschool - Grade 5: Sunday School
- Grades 6-8: Confirmation Classes
- High School - Adult: Adult Forum

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

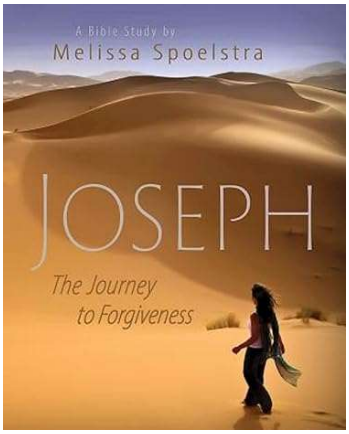
We will break for Advent during the month of December and start back with a new study on **January 7**. Hope you can join us then!

We meet Tuesday evenings at **6pm in the upstairs lounge** for one hour, then adjourn to a local restaurant for food and fellowship. Hope you can join us! All are welcome!

If you have any questions, feel free to call, text, or email:
Bob Kynast (269-921-2786, bobkynast@gmail.com)
Don Hafer (269-985-3637, hafer.don@gmail.com)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning Bible study is taking time off for Advent and will pick up on **January 9**. They are still working through *Joseph, the Journey to Forgiveness.* The book is available on Amazon. New participants are always welcome. The class runs weekly from **9:30am-11am in the upstairs lounge**. Contact Colleen Lundgren at 269/921-4873 or colleenkl@icloud.com with any questions.



From the website: *This study explores what God has to say to us about grace and forgiveness through Joseph's story of trial and triumph found in Genesis 37-50. As we study his dreams, his betrayers, his dysfunctional family, his struggle to forgive, and his journey toward reconciliation, we'll find truths that echo into our own personal situations as well as practical help for answering common life questions.*

FORUM & fellowship

We are taking the month of December off so schedules are freed up for Advent worship and, or course, soup suppers. We have had some good speakers and good discussions this fall, and we will pick back up in January. We will continue considering our theme - Joyfully sharing God's love with all. Hope to see you on **January 8 at 7pm in the upstairs lounge**. Have a blessed Christmas season!

Upcoming dates/topics:
January 8: Is MLK Still Relevant?
January 22: People of Indian Heritage (subcontinent)
February 5: People of Hispanic Origin
February 19: Families of One - Singles
April 23: Neighbors with 'Shrinking Worlds'
May 7: Neighbors Who Have Lost Family and Friends
May 21: Neighbors Struggling with Mental Health

Contact Ed Staude at 636/288-1016 with any questions.

BOOK CLUB

Our book for Sunday, December 1 is *The World Played Chess* by Robert Dugoni. We will meet in the upstairs lounge at 6:30pm to share opinions. In 1979, Vincent's only desire is to collect a little beer money and enjoy his final summer before college. Working on a construction crew alongside two Vietnam Vets, he gets the education of a lifetime. Now, forty years later, lessons from that summer unfold as his own son leaves for college to seek his own destiny.

We won't be meeting in January, which gives readers a head-start on our February selection*, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. The New York Times ranks this book as the "keynote non-fiction book of the American century thus far." It examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and how our lives are still defined by a hierarchy of human division.

Please join us for both of these meetings. All are welcome at any meeting that piques your interest. If you have questions, or want to be added to our email list, contact Kathy Cowall at kcowall@hotmail.com or (269) 428-0354.

As library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.
Henry Ward Beecher

Women of the ELCA

SARON CHURCH WOMEN

Saron Church Women will be having a bake sale in the narthex on **Sunday, December 8** after and between both services. All proceeds will go to the **Saron Mentor Family Fund**. Please bring a baked item and, hopefully, make a purchase. This would be a good time to make Christmas treats! It is extremely helpful if you label your treat donations and note any potential allergens. Also, cakes and pies tend to sell faster when cut into plated serving pieces.

We will continue to collect monetary donations on the following Sunday, December 15. Thank you in advance for your support. It is very much appreciated!

MENTOR FAMILY FUND

In the past, our women's group has collected money for our mentor fund through bake sales and other monetary contributions. These funds have been used to help people with utility bills, medical concerns, food for holidays, Christmas gifs and miscellaneous needs. In 2024, we helped with the purchase of uniforms for an elementary student. We look forward to helping people with Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for children. **This year, our bake sale will be on December 8 and all proceeds are allocated to our mentor fund.** Monetary gifts through the year are always welcome. If you would like to contribute, checks can be written to **Saron Church Women with "Mentor Fund" as the memo**. Thank you to all who have supported our efforts. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, Linda Pater, at 269/369-1178.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

We will **NOT** meet in December. **January 11, 2025** is the date for our Christmas dinner at the home of Linda Pater. Details will be available closer to that date.

Contact Melanie McCammon at 269/449-8399 with any questions.

Hospitality

SUNDAY SNACKS

Who doesn't love a snack during a time of fellowship in the narthex? If you would like to be a Sunday snack host, sign up via the link in our weekly email or call/email the office so Amanda can sign you up. Please plan for at least 30 to partake. Thank you!

Outreach

THE BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN™ HEART-TO-HEART™

Simple food, honestly sourced and lovingly made creates connections, gives fuel to the fight, and starves ignorance and apathy. -Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

On October 24, Saron members Cindy Brown, Jim Manore, Dave Bradley, Marilyn Frey & Kathie Bradley served 121 guests at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen! This record number of people shows there is a great need in the community for a meal and a warm greeting. Guests enjoyed a ham dinner with potato salad, coleslaw, fruit, pickles, bread and homemade cookies. Thanks to our cookie bakers Cheryl Houser, Vicki Drake, Kathi Anserello, Steve & Kristyn Bell and Marilyn Frey.

If you are able to help with the prep and serving or by providing cookies, please use the link in the weekly email or contact Kathie Bradley at 269-921-4665.

Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry with your time, contributions, and prayers.
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!

Interfaith Action

Interfaith Action (swmichiganinterfaith.org) is a coalition of over 40 faith communities in Allegan, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Some members of Saron attend meetings and work with various task force groups. One of the goals of Interfaith Action is to promote understanding and respect for diversity.

The first step in getting involved, is getting informed. Register to receive their communications at https://swmichinterfaith.org/contact1

NOISY OFFERING

We receive a noisy offering (or those not-so-noisy bills) on the first Sunday of each month. These gifts are sent to ELCA World Hunger.

Thank you for your continued support!

EYE GLASS COLLECTION

Do you have old glasses sitting in a drawer? Lions Club has provided a collection box in the narthex. We have several members who are Lions that can deliver our glasses to the club where they will do more good. Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE

It's the season of giving! **Thursday, December 5,** the St. Joseph Lions Club is 'taking over' the Versiti Blood Center on Cleveland Ave. The goal is 25 units of blood and you can help by booking an appointment between 1:30pm - 6:30pm. Call (866) 642-5663. If you have questions, talk to Saron and Lion's members Ed or Claudia Staude, Dennis Lundgren, Dan Fortenbacher, Church Knebl, or Keith Stevens. You have the GIFT to make someone's holiday a little brighter.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

The Inclusivity Task Force is committed to extending a welcome to all. Our congregation adopted the following welcome statement and is a **Reconciling in Christ** church.

As a community of faith who *joyfully shares God's love for all*, we believe our lives and faith are strengthened by diversity. We strive to be a community who welcomes people of every ability, age, citizenship status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, language, marital status, political perspective, race, and sexual orientation. We are committed to the work of racial equity. Whatever life's circumstance, we openly welcome and value you. We celebrate God's unconditional love and respond joyfully to your presence here. All are welcome. You are welcome.

If you ever have any questions or need clarification on our inclusivity journey, please feel free to call any one of the task force members:

Laurel Gacek: 269/470-6062 or mlmg2445@sbcglobal.net
Lindsay Gaspari: 847/373-8826 or lindsay.gaspari@yahoo.com

Support

The Support Committee typically meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm via Zoom. Contact Don Hafer with any questions at 269/985-3637.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with a brokerage firm to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, email Ed Brunner at ebrunner54@gmail.com to receive more information. Thanks!

Facilities

HELPING HANDS (Previously Golden Hammers)

We do all sorts of things from building maintenance to preps for worship in the sanctuary to assembling bulletins and newsletters and so much more. We meet on Wednesdays around 9am and know you are invited – whatever your age, gender, or ability. There is a job for you to use your helping hands.

Other Bits of News

As we transition to a new pastor, it is vital to have volunteer spots filled and filled **EARLY** to avoid the stress of last-minute assignments. Please use the links in the weekly email to fill a reader, usher, or building closer spot for NEXT week, or ideally NEXT month, rather than waiting until right before to see if we have a need for Sunday. This would be a huge help. Thank you!!!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The last few weeks have been a busy time for the call committee. We have interviewed 2 candidates via Zoom, one of whom left a strongly positive impression. We have another Zoom interview scheduled in the next week and there are a few other potential candidates reviewing our paperwork. The committee's next step is to meet in person with potential candidates to confirm our initial impression and further understand how they might be a good match for Saron.

Thanks to various congregation members, we have also had three suggestions of pastors that might be good for us to look into. The process is for names to be passed to the Synod via the call committee chair (Ted Dosch) or me (council president) for initial contact. So far these recommendations have not worked out for a variety of reasons, but please keep the suggestions coming! You never know which path will lead us to a new pastor.

Thank you to all who have helped with worship and support for Pastor Vicky. We are quite thankful that she will be able to stay with us though the end of the year. A special shout out to Erik Bergh for the work he is doing to help ensure we have the services covered and figuring out our winter season supply pastor schedule.

Thank you all for sharing your gifts this holiday season.
Joe Ulrey, Council President

Saron Lutheran Church

1875 | 150th Anniversary | 2025

- New Theme -

Our theme for the year of anniversary celebrations is:
"Generations of Serving & Sharing God's Love"

- Get Involved! -

Our goal is to have an event each month, starting in January and ending with the finale in August. There is room for everyone to get involved. Let the chair know that you'd like to help. We will update this list as it evolves.

- January 12: Kick-off Event – Merrily Smith
- February 9: Super Chili Bowl – Ed Staude
- March ?: Trivia Event – Scott Gaspari
- April 20: Easter Pancake Breakfast – Fran Bolson
- May 10: Blossomtime Parade Lunch – Judi Huff
- May 10: Blossomtime Parade Entry – Need Chair
- June 1: Media Group Photo – Amanda Bradley
- July ?: Outing to Sporting Event – Kristen Harper
- August 10: Worship Service Planning – Marcus Roll
- August 10: Meal Deco & Program – Kristen Harper
- Commemorative Project Planning – Marilyn Lucy
- Fundraising – Ken Boyd
- Historical Research & Documenting – Jane Ulrey
- New Church Photo Directory – Kathie Bradley

- Update on Commemorative Project -

A sub-committee has been formed to begin planning a remodel to the patio/courtyard area that would make it more user friendly and inviting to the community from Main Street. We would also like to incorporate components of a Prayer & Meditation Garden such as elemental sculptures and possibly a prayer station. The goal is to present a design at the annual meeting on January 26. If you are interested in joining this team, contact Marilyn Lucy at 269/759-3464.

- August 10, 2025 -

We will have a celebratory worship with Bishop Craig Satterlee at 10am, followed by a dinner at Union & Social, a beautiful venue in St. Joseph. Keep this date open during your travel planning for next year!

Wintertime Thoughts on Stewardship

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

We sincerely appreciate all the hard work that went into the fall 2024 *Generosity rooted in Gratitude* stewardship season. Many people and many hours were needed to pull off the special music, the weekly devotions, the Stewardship Moments during Sunday services, the question-of-the-week tree, the prayer labyrinths, the Smörgåsbord celebration, and more. It was so gratifying to see so many of the congregation actively involved in this year's focus!

Again, thank you all for sharing in this journey and for your generous commitments to contribute time, talents, and treasures to Saron during 2025. Saron's willingness to be open and vulnerable and to share our individual gifts is extraordinary. We continue to show that we have *Generosity rooted in Gratitude*!

But as we often say, stewardship is not just a season. It's a way of life. Our individual view of the obligation to be a good steward of all that God has given us essentially dictates how we live our lives. Remember that stewardship manifests itself in each of our daily priorities, choices, and actions.

Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe.

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Next year will truly be a special time in Saron's history, as we celebrate 150 years as a congregation "Sharing God's Love for All!!" Just imagine the changes that have occurred since 1874 – in that year the Southern Pacific Railroad opened to revolutionize transportation and barbed wire was invented. Things are certainly different today. But through all those years and all the generations of congregants, Saron has thrived to become the loving, accepting, and generous haven that it is today.

While the 150th anniversary activities will begin in January and end with a big finale in August, we hope to extend the festivities during next year's stewardship season using the theme, *Generations of Generosity*. Although planning is just getting underway, we envision paying homage to previous generations and will emphasize keeping the legacy going for generations of Saron congregants yet to come. If anyone has thoughts or suggestions, we would be glad to hear from you!

Don Hafer, for the Stewardship Committee

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If you would like to make a commitment to God and Saron but did not have an opportunity to do so earlier, it's never too late to return a commitment form. Stewardship is a way of life and a year-round concept. There are additional forms in the narthex or contact the church office if you need one mailed or emailed. Your consideration is appreciated as we prepare Saron's 2025 spending plan. Thank you!

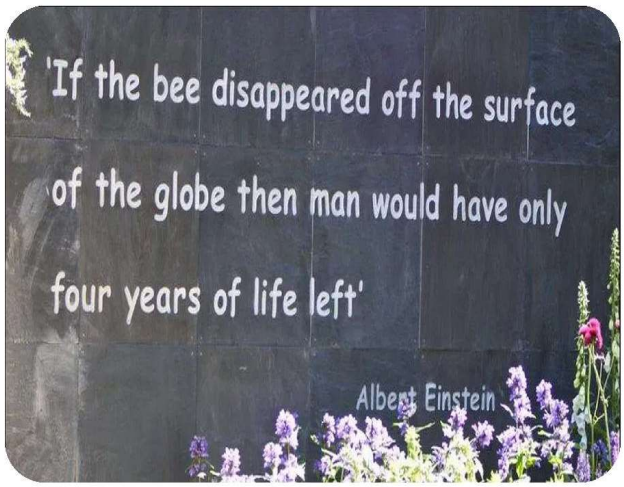
To or Not to

As Advent approaches, it's time to once again turn our attention to ELCA Good Gifts!

Vulnerable communities in Africa and other parts of the world continue to face food insecurity and famine. Strategies for dealing with this crisis focus on introducing regenerative agriculture practices that improve soil health, increase productivity, build climate resilience, and reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers. To quote Farm Africa, "Growing maize and legumes and **keeping goats, pigs, poultry, and bees** are all resilience mechanisms, which ensure that if one source of income fails, people have another to fall back on." The ELCA Good Gifts animal Christmas tree ornament program joins with many other worldwide humanitarian efforts to provide agricultural resources when they are needed.

How can you help?
In 2023 during Advent, Saron youth raised money for 5 goats, 5 piglets, 13 honeybee colonies, and 1 brood of chicks. The Saron congregation sponsored 19 goats, 24 piglets, 55 honeybee colonies, and 14 broods of chicks. While we can feel good about our past efforts, the need is still great and we can do more.

This year, from Advent (Dec 1) through the first Sunday after Epiphany (Jan 6), you will have the opportunity to make donations for animal ornaments that will allow the ELCA to purchase and deliver the animal(s) of your choice to where it (they) will do the most good. We are again focusing on just four animals, but not just for simplicity. There four are best for the environment and will provide the most help to struggling families.

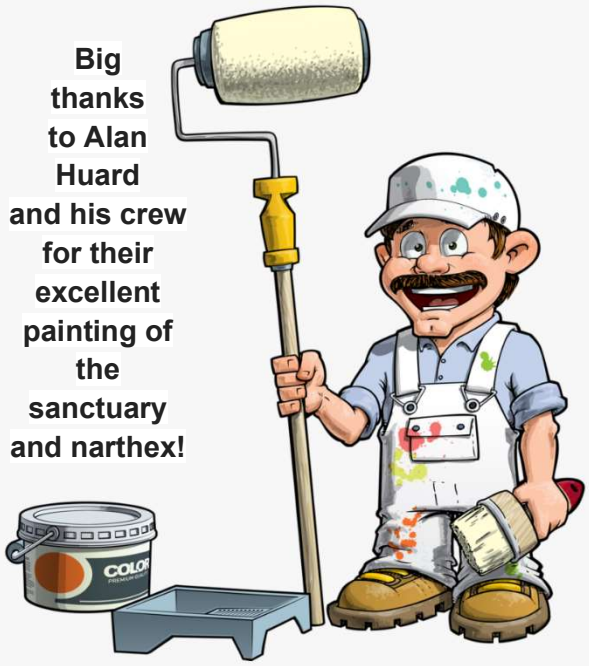


- **Goat - $50**
  Goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain.
- **Piglet - $30**
  Pigs provide natural fertilizer that helps crops grow tall and strong.
- **Honeybees - $20**
  Honeybees provide honey to eat & sell and are essential to crop growth by pollinating plants.
- **Chicks - $10**
  Eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein rich meals, they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.

While all four animals make worthy gifts, the bees may have the biggest impact. So, when making your decisions, don't forget the honeybees! Think how nice six big honeybee ornaments would look on your tree, and how much good those bees would do.

Look for an order form with instructions in the bulletin each week during Advent.
ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that means the most to you and the people you love. Saron Outreach

Big thanks to Alan Huard and his crew for their excellent painting of the sanctuary and narthex!



Al left some business cards in the narthex.

Saron Youth are the FUTURE but also the NOW

You do not want to miss the Saron Youth Christmas Service on **Sunday, December 15 at 11am**. The younger kids will perform the skit *The Christmas Mouse*, telling the story of how sometimes the greatest gift you have to give is YOU! The older youth will read and assist with worship and they will all come together to play the chimes.

There will also be cake in case you needed additional motivation.

LEAVES AND MORE LEAVES

Saron Fall Cleanup

Jim Manore, Steve & Kris Bell, and the Bradley girls & friends did some fall cleanup for a school teacher/single father with a special needs son in our community. Amanda's nephew Paxton kept everyone entertained!

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18
Advent Soup Suppers at 6:15pm with Worship at 7pm
On-location & via Zoom

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
Youth Christmas Service at 11am
"The Christmas Mouse"
On-location & via Zoom

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 7pm & 10pm
(No Childcare)
On-location and via Zoom

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
First Sunday of Christmas Worship at 8:30am & 11am
On-location & via Zoom (11am)

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship NO Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**2** Noon Prayer Group	**3**	**4** 9am Helping Hands 6:15pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Worship	**5** 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	**6**	**7**
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**9** Noon Prayer Group	**10** 8pm Support Meeting	**11** 9am Helping Hands 6:15pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Worship with **Decorating** After	**12** 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	**13**	**14**
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am **Youth Christmas Service** with Zoom Option	**16** Noon Prayer Group 7pm Council Meeting **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**	**17**	**18** 9am Helping Hands 6:15pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Worship with **Carol Sing** After	**19** 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	**20**	**21**
22 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship NO Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**23** Noon Prayer Group	**24** 7pm Christmas Eve Worship with Zoom Option 10pm Christmas Eve Worship with Zoom Option	**25** **Merry Christmas!**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 1st Sunday of Christmas 8:30am Worship NO Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**30** Noon Prayer Group	**31**				